Original Box 36a Folder 10
Smithfield MM
1716 – 1824

In the report of the Committee appointed 4 mo 1777 & reporting to the
9 mo Mtg following, it appears that the income of the
Rachel Thayer fund had been used for General Expenses
rather than for school purposes which had been her
preference.

insert the above property at (7.) on preced. page

(2) ~~Maggie Lawton School Note~~
~~Wood further comment~~

3 ~~Memorandum as to Friends School~~ ~~now to be~~
~~re-examined~~

Rachel Thayer Fund for Education
1777 – 1836, extract from 1767 will

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https://archive.org/details/rachelthayerfund9023newe

Package 25. Misc. Coll.

The miscellaneous collection of documents in this package are arranged under the following heads.

(1) Records of committee in charge of the Rachel Thayer Fund for the education of Friends Children &c.
5.29.1777 — 8.14.1836.

On a loose slip in this book is an item from Rachel Thayer's will, approved 1767, in which she bequeathes "all my money, bonds & notes for money, except what money I have already ordered to be paid to the trustees of (Smithfield) mo. Meeting, for the support & schooling of the poor, &c." (insert on title page)

This committee was appointed by the Monthly Meeting (One of which was Moses Brown) to receive the income of this fund from the Trustees & establish a school. Job Scott was selected as teacher with a salary of $80 hard dollars a year & his board (which was obtained for 6 shilling or $1.00 per week) and the school was opened in Friends Meeting house at Lower Smithfield apparently in 1778. It is spoken of as small and on account of a prevalence of small pox in the neighborhood was discontinued for six or eight months. No mention seems to be made of how long the school continued, but the committee was kept under appointment and used the income of the fund for other schools and after the Boarding School in Prov. was started used some of it for sending Friends Children there & also acted as a committee for recommending Friends Children for the benefit of the Charitable Fund.
No mention is made of the closing up of the fund or dissolution of the committee in this book, but at the back is a copy of the Rules prescribed for the government of Job Scotts School.

There is impressive evidence through the minutes of this book of the low state of education among Friends, of the scarcity of schools, and the difficulty of securing suitable persons as teachers. Coincident with this, also is the evidence of the the frequency and urgency with which the various Quarterly Meetings and their committees under the leadership of Moses Brown and others pressed the question of education to the front & kept it there.

over

Item. I give & Bequeath unto Luke Aldrich Samuel Aldrich & George Smith as Trustees of the aforesaid Monthly Meeting, all my money, and bonds & notes for money (except what money I have already ordered to be paid), to be put to interest and the income arising thereby, to be for the Support & Schooling of the poor, or any other public use or uses the said Month-ly Meeting shall see fit — And my will is that the said Trustees & their Successors shall obey the directions of said Mo. Meeting — Extract from Rachel Thayer's Will — approved 2mo 23. 1767

Au. Coll. Package 21.

For the Yearly Meeting's Safe.

Records of Committee in charge of
the Rachel Thayer Fund for education
of Friends' children, etc.

5th month 29th, 1777.
to
8th month 14th, 1836.

[Note extract from will of
R. Thayer enclosed on
loose paper.]

y^e 12 of y^e 10 Month 1773

To the Monthly Meeting of Friends to be held at Smithfield y^e 28 ~~Inst~~ of this Present Month

I have this Day Reckoned with Luke Aldrich Respecting the Intereſt of Money in his hands belonging to this Meetin and found that there was Due from him to said Meeting the twentieth of the forth Month Laſt £32=6=2^d and I Rec^d of him Eight Pounds Eleven Shillings and four Pence in Caſh and a Note of hand for £23=14=10^d which Note when Paid will be in full for Intereſt up to the twentieth of laſt forth Month and he was Allowed of his trouble to that time Wm Buſſum

To the Monthly Meeting of Friends ~~etc~~ to be held
at Smithfield on the twentyeighth Day of 4th ~~Month~~ Tenth Month
1773 Whereas I was appointed at Last Monthly Meeting
to Reckon with Samuel Aldrich Respecting the Interest
of Money in his hands belonging to ~~the~~ said Meeting by
Vertue of Rachel Thayers Will
I have Reckoned with him the Sd Samuel Accordingly
and find that there is Due from him to Sd Meeting as Int.st
Twenty Pounds Sixteen Shillings and ten Pence
which when Paid will be in full for the Interest
of all the Money in his hands belonging to Sd Meeting
~~up~~ to the Twentieth Day of the forth Month 1773

Errors Excepted

Wm Bussum

A considerable number of Females feeling interested on account of Poor Children, and particularly those in the Northern part of Smithfield, and having met together and considered the Subject, conclude to form a Society by the name of the Smithfield Female School Society And for the Government thereof, & for regulating a school or Schools during the warm season, for the instruction of Poor Children of both seges, within a few Miles of Smithfield Academy — adopt the following Rules

First

That the great object of this Society be, to unite in aiding and contributing, to the establishing and Supporting of a Charity School or Schools And that the society consist of members, paying each fifty cents annually. That a meeting be held on 4th Saturday of April annually, at Smithfield Academy, for the purpose of appointing the necessary officers of the Society, and of Making such amendments, or alterations in the rules and regulations, as may be deemed expedient. And a Semiannual Meeting on the 4th Saturday of October for the Purpose of inspecting the situation and proceedings of the Institution

Second

That there be a President, Treasurer, Clerk and two Receivers appointed annually, The President shall preside at all stated & occasional Meetings of the society, keep order and cause the business thereof to be conducted with propriety and dispatch and in case of her absence one shall be appointed for the day. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all the Money that is received, either by subscription or donation, particularly describing the amount of each, and of all that is expended, shall pay, the orders, of the School committee which will be appointed in conformity to the third Rule. And Report a general statement of the accounts and funds, both to the annual and semiannual Meetings of the Society. The Clerk shall keep a fair record of all the proceedings of the society. The Receivers shall call on the Members for their Subscriptions, and endeavour to obtain donations

Third

That a committee of not less than four persons be annually appointed, who with the President are to decide who are fit objects of the charity of the Society, & also to be consulted on such other subjects as may concern the Society, And shall call a special Meeting when in their judgment it may be thought necessary

Fourth

Legacies, Donations or Subscriptions of any sum smaller or larger than those necessary to constitute membership thankfully received & strictly appropriated to the objects of the society

Fifth

In order to further the object in view, it is agreed that the Society shall meet once a month, not less than twenty members to constitute a meeting and appoint an acting committee consisting of eight persons one or more of whom, Shall visit the School occasionally through the week, & lend such aid to the teacher as may be needful, & two of the committee shall attend the first day School in rotation, on which day the Children are required to be at the School at nine o clock in the morning to prepare for Meeting in a decent and orderly manner, and the afternoon School to open at half past two, And the Children be cautioned to be punctual in attending at the times appointed,

Sixth

That there be a portion of scripture read to the Scholars at the opening and close of the school, by the teacher or one of the Committee, and that silence be strictly kept not only during the reading but also a short time before and after

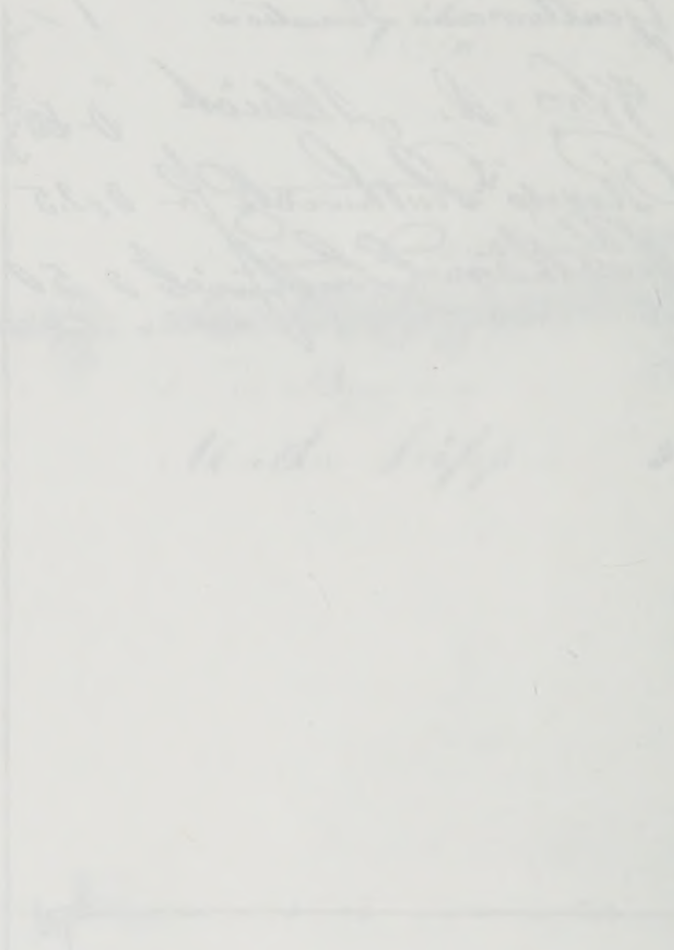
Therefore with meekness and love we desire to enter into this benevolent undertaking, humbly relying for the success of our endeavours, on Him who said suffer little Children to come unto me and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of Heaven

Maria Buffum	50	Judith Allen	50
Wait Bartlett	50	Mercy Ayres	50
Arba Spear	50	Mayy B Allen Fa	50
Diana Aldrich	50	Patience Arnold	50
Sally Bartlett		Lydia Slur	
Elizabeth A Ide		Ann S Aldrich	50
Elizabeth A Osborne	50	Ann Lo. Buffum	50
Lettice Allen	50	Lydia Buffum	50
Chloe Allen	50	Martha Tripp	50
Lucy Bartlett	50		
Wait Allen	50		
Lydia Shearman	50		
Dolly Aldrich	50		
Phila Aldrich	50		
Sarah Aldrich	50		
Esther Aldrich	50		
Alice Rathbun Fa	50		
Hannah M Babcock	50		
Elizabeth Smith jun	50		
Hannah Southwick			
Sophia Aldrich	50		
Judith Whipple	50		
Diana Comstock	50		
Mercy Aldrich	50		
Clarissa Comstock	50		
Mary Aldrich	50		
Acenith Paine	50		
Lydia Shore			
Elvira S. Comstock	50		

Donations

	£
Gentlemans Donation	1
Wm L. Alcock	0 50
Royal Southwick Jr	0 25
Jonathan Southwick	0 50

Last paid



I give to Rosilla Smith one hundred and forty dollars to be disposed of in the manner hereafter proposed, viz. for my executors to pay unto the Monthly meeting of Smithfield in one year after my decease the s.d one hundred & forty dollars, for the use of s.d Rosilla Smith to be disposed of by s.d Mothly meeting in the following manner, viz, for the s.d meeting to receive s.d one hundred & forty dollars & put the same to Interest, & to pay the Interest of s.d sum, annually to the s.d Rosilla Smith during her life, after deducting the expence of the Trustees that are appointed to take charge of s.d Business. And as the s.d Rosilla may have need of the principal, to keep her from being chargeable to Society, the monthly meeting may direct for her to be supplied from time to time as there may be necessity untill it be all paid, together with the expence of the business to those that are put in trust to take care thereof, but in case any part of the aforesaid sum of money should remain after Rosilla Smiths decease then the s.d monthly meeting may dispose thereof as they may think best. — — — — —